

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 37

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE CHILDREN'S CABINET TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO EVALUATE, IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE SANDOVAL COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM TO SERVE MORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN UTILIZING THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM AND TO BRING THE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM TO OTHER WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM SITES IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program is an interagency model for the delivery of health and social services operating at the Sandoval county health commons; and

WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program services are oriented to prevention and are family- and relationship-based while being responsive to individual needs; and

WHEREAS, the Sandoval county family support program

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1 conducts screenings and assessments regarding needs for social
2 supports, chronic diseases, maternal mental health, parent and
3 child relationships, child development, health literacy
4 trainings and more; and

5 WHEREAS, the inappropriate use of health care services for
6 preschool children enrolled in medicaid costs millions of
7 dollars annually, and research has shown that low-cost health
8 literacy trainings can substantially reduce medicaid costs,
9 lost work and lost school days; and

10 WHEREAS, the women, infants and children program is the
11 entry point for many clients accessing these screenings and
12 services; and

13 WHEREAS, the women, infants and children program
14 safeguards the health of low-income women, infants and children
15 up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk by providing
16 nutritional foods, information on healthy eating and referrals
17 to health care providers; and

18 WHEREAS, at one hundred ten clinic sites around the state,
19 the women, infants and children program served more than one
20 hundred twelve thousand New Mexicans and provided over seven
21 hundred thousand monthly food benefit packages in 2008; and

22 WHEREAS, women, infants and children program visits offer
23 many opportunities to positively impact healthy behaviors as
24 families visit these program sites once every one or two months
25 and often for many years; and

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1 WHEREAS, the department of health estimates that sixty
2 percent of babies born in New Mexico are seen by the women,
3 infants and children program, including virtually all pregnant
4 women and babies who live in poverty; and

5 WHEREAS, the Sandoval county health commons family support
6 program has been offering expanded prevention and early
7 intervention services to women, infants and children program
8 recipients since 2002 through the use of community health
9 workers and other public health staff; and

10 WHEREAS, enriched programming available through the
11 Sandoval county family support program is leading to wider use
12 of these services and screenings in the community; and

13 WHEREAS, families visiting women, infants and children
14 program sites would benefit from the expanded array of services
15 and screenings offered by the Sandoval county family support
16 program;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children's cabinet be requested to
19 appoint a task force to develop strategies to evaluate, improve
20 and expand the Sandoval county family support program to serve
21 more women and children utilizing the women, infants and
22 children program sites throughout New Mexico; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
24 representation from a network of individuals with expertise in
25 early childhood development, the Sandoval county family support

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1 program, the women, infants and children program, individuals
2 with expertise in children's health, social and emotional
3 needs, researchers in early childhood development, maternal and
4 infant mental health, the department of health and others; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include
6 representation from family members that reflects the cultural,
7 ethnic, economic and geographic composition of New Mexico; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
9 recommendations of the task force address return-on-investment
10 priorities, service delivery models, coordination with other
11 necessary partners and a continuum of services to be included;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
14 recommendations of the task force be presented to the
15 legislative health and human services committee by November 1,
16 2009; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the children's cabinet.

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